

✓ If any of the cited/submitted documents is in a foreign language, a concise explanation of relevance is provided pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)(i). For foreign language documents cited in a search report by a foreign patent office, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance is satisfied by the submission herewith of an English language version of the search report. MPEP §609A(3). If a written English-language translation of a non-English language document, or portion thereof, is within the possession, custody or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in §1.56(c), a copy of the translation accompanies this statement, 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)(ii), and satisfies the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance, MPEP §609A(3).

✓ **PTA Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d).** Each item of information contained in the *Information Disclosure Statement* was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the *Information Disclosure Statement*.

This statement should be considered because:

— **37 C.F.R. §1.97(b).** This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because:

- (1) It is being filed within three months of the filing date of an application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d);
-- OR --
- (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage;
-- OR --
- (3) It is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits,
-- OR --
- (4) It is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114.

✓ **37 C.F.R. §1.97(c).** Although it may not qualify under subsection (b), this statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (c) because:

- (1) It is being filed before the mailing date of a FINAL Office Action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the subject application, whichever occurs first.

-- AND (check at least one of the following) --

— (1) It is accompanied by a STATEMENT as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e).

-- OR --

✓ (2) It is accompanied by the \$180 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

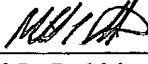
— **37 C.F.R. §1.97(d).** Although it may not qualify under subsection (b) or (c), this statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (d) because:

- (1) It is being filed on or before payment of the Issue Fee;
-- AND --
- (2) It is accompanied by a STATEMENT as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e);
-- AND --
- (3) It is accompanied by the \$180 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

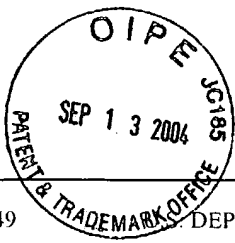
✓ **Fee Authorization.** The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9/8/04

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Form PTO-1449 (Substitute)	DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	Attorney Docket Number LAZE-01000US0	Serial/Patent Number 09/465,592
Information Disclosure Statement BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		Applicant/Patent Owner Culver, et al.	
		Filing/Issue Date 12/17/1999	Group Art Unit 2653

U.S. PATENTS

Examiner Initial		Patent Number	Issue Date	First Named Inventor	Class	Subclass	Filing Date
	1	5,439,777	08/08/1995	Kawada et al.			
	2	5,777,977	07/07/1998	Fujiwara et al.			

U.S. PATENT PUBLICATIONS

Examiner Initial		Patent Application Publication Number	Publication Date	Applicant
				RECEIVED

PENDING U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

SEP 16 2004

Examiner Initial		Application Number	Filing Date	First Named Inventor	Technology Center 2600	Relied on to Expunge? Yes No

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No
	3	EP 0 734 017 A1	09/25/1996	EPO			
	4	EP 0 438 256 A2	07/24/1991	EPO			
	5	JP 9198726	07/31/1997	JP			Abstract

Examiner	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

*1 = Copy not submitted because it was submitted in prior application SN __/____, filed _____, 20____, relied on under 35 USC §120.

*2 = Copy not submitted because it was submitted in prior application SN __/____, filed _____, 20____, relied on under 35 USC §120.